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XXII. *EXTRACTS from the PEKING GAZETTE for 1824, being the Fourth Year of Taou-kwang. By JOHN FRANCIS DAVIS, Esq., F.R.S. M.R.A.S.*

Read January 7, 1826.

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I. *Malversations in Office.—Imperial Edict.*

1st moon, 11th day (10th February).

THE Censor, *Wang-shī-fū*, has presented to us a paper, concerning the malversations in office prevalent among the clerks and official assistants in the government offices of *Chih-le*\* province.

“ The clerks in the large and small offices of *Chih-le* province being assisted by their own friends in the prosecution of public business, the latter make use of their official influence in the commission of every species of iniquity. I, the Censor, have turned my whole attention to the examination of these abuses. Truly there is none to whom they will not vend their services! But this province being the place of imperial residence, ought to be governed with more especial probity, as an example to all others. It appears that in the offices of the Treasurer† and Judge there are, in addition to the regular assistants, persons who call themselves *Kēō-choo* (heads of departments), who dividing themselves into two bodies, those who manage *internal* and those who manage *external* affairs, monopolize all the business of the *Chow* and *Hēen* districts, and in the progress of the ratification or reversal of the decisions of the inferior courts, are guilty of all kinds of false and criminal combinations. The official friends of the *Chow* and *Hēen* magistrates having formerly been clerks in the higher courts, have a secret correspondence with the above *Kēō-choo*, and in all matters of judgment consult together with them, for the purposes of deceit and plunder.‡ When the business of government falls into such hands as these, they prove, in fact, the ‘destructive insects of the soil.’ Let the Viceroy of the province direct the Treasurer and Judge to institute an inquiry, and abolish altogether the office of *Kēō-choo*. If among the official friends of the *Chow* and || *Hēen* magistrates there be any discovered who combine together for evil purposes, let them be immediately apprehended and pu-

\* Or *Pě-che-ly*.

† The *treasurer* is frequently a judge in civil matters relating to property within his province: the *judge* takes cognizance chiefly of criminal matters, or “pleas of the crown” as they are called in England.

‡ *Fun-fei*, “dividing or sharing the fat.”

|| These are magistrates of inferior districts, possessing, however, in most cases, a jurisdiction much more enlarged and independent than the local magistracy in England individually.

nished. This evil practice, since it exists to such an extent in *Chih-le* province, must also prevail in others: let all the Viceroys and Governors be at the same time directed to examine publicly, and inquire privately into the existence of the abuse, and put an end to it altogether. They must take care that purity prevails generally in the tissue of government, in order that the public courts may be adorned with rectitude, and the accumulation of abuses prevented.

“ *Khin-tsze.*” (Respect this.)

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## II. *The Emperor puts off his Journey into Tartary.*

An Edict written with the vermilion pencil has been respectfully received.

1st moon, 20th day (19th February).

“ I, the Emperor, had with feelings of awe appointed the third moon for visiting and prostrating myself before the tomb of my father, the profoundly wise Emperor,\* in order to evince my sincere devotedness of mind. But the province of *Chih-le* has during the last two years suffered from scarcity; and even in the period of want, the strength of the people was weakened by other calamities (probably meaning the inundations of 1823). I therefore direct that a stop may at present be put to the preparations for the intended expedition. Again, with reference to the autumnal hunt of the present year, I ought to follow the established custom of my predecessors; but, at the same time, it is necessary to be guided by the circumstances of the times, and to act in conformity to them. The expedition to *Jč-ho* is also ordered to be delayed for this year: this is an involuntary source of vexation to me! I should not dare to adopt this measure from a love of ease and indulgence!

“ The civil and military officers of *Chih-le* ought to fashion their hearts by mine. Let them punish and expel every thing that is irregular and bad; let them advance and encourage the worthy and capable. Every measure that is profitable for the people let them pursue with their whole hearts; let them extend the principle of soothing and compassionating, in order that my little children may be saved from the extremity of distress, and

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\* On the death of every sovereign a posthumous title is conferred: that of *Kea-king*, who died in 1820, is *Jin-tsung-juy-hwang-tc*, “ the benevolent ancestor, the profoundly wise Emperor.” For the Chinese characters see Plate XIII, No. 1.

from being scattered abroad without a resource, thus seconding my sincere wish to cherish them in proportion to the necessity of the times. Be not remiss!

“ A special Edict.”\*

### III. *Forbidding the possession of Fire-arms to the common People.*

1st moon, 24th day (23d February).

“ An imperial edict has been respectfully received, in reply to the address of *Chin-kwō-jin*, governor of *Kwei-chow*, on the subject of his having made a general muster of the matchlocks in his province, storing up those which were serviceable and destroying the rest, after having made compensation to the owners, &c.

“ For the people to have fire-arms in their possession is contrary to law, and orders have already been issued to each provincial government to fix a period within which all matchlocks belonging to individuals† should be bought up at a valuation. It is stated by *Chin-kwō-jin*, that over and above the sums paid for those which are fit for use and laid up in the military stores, as well as for those which were subsequently sold as old iron, there is still required the sum of tales 1,505. If the officers of the different districts be allowed *themselves* to advance the money, it is to be feared that they may take occasion to peculate: we therefore direct (according to the request of *Chin-kwō-jin*), that a portion of the proceeds arising from lead‡ be appropriated to that purpose from the provincial treasury. With regard to those fire-arms which are in immediate use for the safeguard of the country, the said governor has already directed the proper officers to carve on every matchlock the name of the person to whom it is delivered, and to preserve a general list of the whole. Let the governor also give strict charge to make a diligent search, and prevent the illicit storing up of fire-arms for the future; and let the workers in iron be rigidly looked after,

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\* The Emperor here uses the same expression as is subjoined to the ordinary proclamations of the officers of government, instead of the usual *Khin-tsze*, “ Respect this.” The above is a curious specimen of the pretension to sympathy by which the empire of China is, in a great measure, governed.

† Those Chinese at *Canton* who employ themselves in shooting wild fowl, &c. are mostly belonging to the militia of the province, and have matchlocks in their possession *ex officio*.

‡ The produce of *Kwei-chow*

lest they clandestinely manufacture and sell them ; thus cutting off the evil in its commencement. Those officers who have made full and complete musters within the limited period, the said governor is directed to take proper notice of, as an encouragement to others.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

IV. *Advance of Salary for the purpose of repairing Family Tombs.*

2d moon, 4th day (4th March).

“ The imperial pleasure has been respectfully received.

“ The titular King *Chun shan* has presented to us a petition, intreating our imperial favour in the advance of some years' salaries, wherewithal he may be enabled to repair the tombs of his family. We permit to be advanced to him the amount of his kingly allowances for ten years ensuing, and direct that his pay be annually deducted until the whole shall be liquidated.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

V. *History of the late Reign completed.—Imperial order,*

2d moon, 4th day (4th March).

“ It having been reported to us, that the history of the reign of our late father, the profoundly-wise Emperor, has been completed, and respectfully deposited at *Hwang-she-ching* and *Shing-king*,\* and that the names of the editors only remain to be added, we direct that, according to the ancient form, the names of *Tsaou-chin-yung*, *Tae-keun-yuen*, *Wang-ting-chin*, and *Ying-ho*, be placed in order at the commencement thereof.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

VI. *Appointments in the Ministry.*

2d moon, 10th day (10th March).

“ *Moo-chang-ah*† is hereby appointed to fill the office of President of the Board for Foreign Affairs: *Sung Keun*‡ is appointed to the office of

\* Birth-place of the reigning family in Eastern Tartary.

† This is the *Moo-ta-jin* who met Lord Amherst at Tung-chow. He was then nearly eighty years of age, and filled the office of President of the Board of Rites.

‡ *Sung ta-jin*, the conductor of Lord Macartney's embassy.

President of the Censors. These appointments are gifts proceeding from our more than ordinary regard and sympathy for aged ministers. Let *Sung Keun* carefully attend to the established routine of his office, instead of wildly confusing and puzzling himself with a multiplicity of extraneous matters.\* If he treads in his former track he will involve himself in criminality.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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### VII. *A Decree, conferring posthumous Honours.*

2d moon, 11th day (11th March).

“ *Le-she-seu*, the Inspector General of rivers in *Keang-nan* and the neighbouring provinces (who has charge of the repairs of the Yellow River), in the seventeenth year of *Kea-king* received from our virtuous predecessor, the profoundly-wise Emperor, the important office of repairing and superintending generally the rivers of those provinces. Without declining labour and toil, without retreating from envy and intrigue, he for thirteen years exerted all his abilities in duly discharging the duties of his station. All the works which he erected were excellent and durable : his merit was indeed great ! When, on account of severe indisposition, he requested to be relieved, our heart was moved with feelings of sympathy towards him ; and we sent down our will that he should retire for two months, and conferred on him five ounces weight of ginseng ; with a view that leisure, and the application of medicine, might restore him to health, that he might long remain to us as a trust and a reliance. Hearing of his sudden death, deep was our emotion ! We direct that the posthumous title of *Shang-shoo*† be conferred on him, as well as that of *Tae-tsze-tae-paou*,‡ and that he be interred with the rites and honours attached thereto. Let the proper Board inquire into, and report to us, concerning the distinctions that are due by established rule. Let his eldest son, *Le-keu-hǎng*, his second son, *Le-keu-yuen*, and his third son, *Le-keu-ching*, be called to *Peking* after the expi-

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\* *Sung-keun* is noted for the boldness of his expostulations with the sovereign, on occasions when he conceives that his age and experience, as well as office, entitle him to give his advice. To this propensity he has been indebted for his frequent disgraces.

† President of a board or tribunal.

‡ Guardian of the heir apparent.

ration of their mourning, and presented to the Civil Board to be brought before us.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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VIII. *Posthumous Rewards for Valour.—Imperial Decree.*

2d moon, 15th day (15th March).

“ The Military Board has examined and presented an address concerning a commander killed in action, requesting that some posthumous rewards may be conferred. The late *Too-sze*\* of *Kwang-se* province, named *Kaou-hih-tsze*, being engaged in a skirmish in the reign of *K'een-lung*, at a place called *Le-ching-h'een-nan*, was killed. Some posthumous rewards have already been conferred; but the Board, after accurately investigating, finds that the above-mentioned officer was in truth greatly regardless of his person in battle, and therefore proposes that additional honours be conferred.

“ It is hereby directed, as a mark of imperial favour, that *Kaou-hih-tsze* be honoured to the fullest extent of the regulations relating to officers who fall in battle.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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IX. *Against buying up Government Grain.*

2d moon, 18th day (18th March).

“ The Censor, *Lew-e-h'ang*, has presented an address respecting the expediency of apprehending certain corn-dealers, who have employed persons to buy up grain from the government stores. The marts which are established at the capital for retailing grain at a low price, have their origin in a sincere feeling of benevolence towards the people. According to the report of the said Censor, several keepers of corn-shops have seduced and engaged indigent people to buy up the grain for them (pretending it was for their own use); thus seconding their secret views of hoarding and profit. Besides which there are an hundred other shameful arts practised by vagabond rogues without a livelihood, which it is highly necessary to inquire into and punish. Let the armed police and secret runners be despatched to the deposits of grain, both within and without the city walls,

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\* A military title, something like colonel. The next below is *Ts'een-tsung*; the next *Pa-tsung*. The latter two degrees were attached to the principal boats in Lord Amherst's embassy, one to each.



to examine and search out; and should they meet with this species of abuse, let them immediately apprehend the culprits for punishment. If they are detected in conniving at such acts, let them be punished together with the original offenders. Let the police, at the same time, be rigorously enjoined not to seek occasions of vexatiously annoying and disturbing the people; but let them second our anxious care in favour of our distressed subjects.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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#### X. *Military Exercises.—Imperial Order.*

2d moon, 18th day (18th March).

“ In the late reign, whenever an excursion was made into Tartary, it was customary to inspect the skill of the great officers of government, and of all those near the imperial person in military exercises. In the ensuing year, when we proceed on a similar expedition, it is our intention, as of old, to inspect these exercises. But from the twenty-fifth year of *Kea-king* until now, there has been but little practice in them. Let orders be circulated for a general practice in such exercises, that next year, when the inspection takes place, every one may be perfectly adroit. Heavy penalties will be inflicted on such as prove remiss and inexpert.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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#### XI. *A Chinese erroneously stated to be a Tartar.—Imperial Order.*

2d moon, 22d day (22d March).

“ The *Keu-jin* graduate, named *Hou-yew-pe*, being a Chinese by birth, was reported as a Tartar at the examination at which he succeeded in obtaining his degree: he ought to be deprived of his literary rank.\* But at the time of the said examination this graduate being very young, it was his father who made a false report of him and led to the error. Now, as the graduate himself has made a true representation of the case, he is less culpable than if it had been discovered and reported by the examining officer. It is directed that he retain his literary rank, but be prevented from attending at *one* examination (i. e. his promotion is stopped for three

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\* This is a strong proof (if any were wanted) that the Tartars are always favoured, whenever there is any competition.

years, the interval between the examinations), and that he be enrolled as a Chinese by birth. But let the head of the Tartar division, who presumed to take upon himself to present the report on the occasion, be delivered to the Criminal Board for trial and punishment.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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XII. *A public Granary insufficiently supplied.—Imperial Order.*

2d moon, 22d day (22d March).

“ The *Too-tung*, named *Ying Hwuy*, has presented an address respecting the expediency of transferring grain to a district where the present stock is insufficient. The district *Koo-ching*, in *Kan-sūh* province, has its granary annually supplied with an insufficient quantity; so that whenever it is found requisite to sell grain at a low price to the soldiers and people, for their immediate consumption as well as for seed, the stock is always inadequate. The said *Too-tung* has clearly ascertained that the neighbouring granary of *Tse-mūh-shā* district is redundantly supplied, and that a portion of the stock may be transferred. This being really the case, it is directed that, according to the tenor of the address, forty thousand peculs (two thousand three hundred and seventy-five tons) be transferred from the granary of *Tse-mūh-shā* to that of *Koo-ching*, with a view to providing an adequate supply. Let the appropriate board take cognizance of it.\*

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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\* It is not difficult to perceive, that this excessive care to provide against local and contingent famines in China springs not so much from any real feeling of affection and kindness towards the people, as from a dread of the usual consequences of such dearths when they are severe. No sooner does a famine take place than revolts are immediately apprehended; and unless the cravings of the populace can be allayed by supplies from the public granaries, these apprehensions are seldom groundless. Taught (according to their paternal notions of government) to consider the good which they enjoy in prosperity as resulting from the care of the Emperor and his representatives, the people very naturally refer the evils which they suffer in adversity to remissness and improvidence in the same quarter, and the government, not ignorant of the danger, is proportionably cautious in guarding against it. Were the lower orders, according to the dictates of a more sensible policy, instructed to refer these inevitable calamities to their real origin, the irregular vicissitudes of the seasons, they would probably bear them with more patience, and not attribute that to their rulers which their rulers have as little power to controul as themselves.

XIII. *Destruction of Records by Fire.*

2d moon, 29th day (29th March).

“ *Han-wan-ke*, governor of *Keang-soo* province, kneeling presents to the Imperial attention a report of the destruction by fire of the public records of his government.

“ On the second day of the first moon, at midnight, the offices of records to the west of the chief hall of government being on fire, I, the governor, followed by all the civil and military officers, soldiery, &c. hastened to extinguish the flames, and by our strenuous exertions the whole range of buildings appertaining to the great hall were rescued from destruction ; but the records, which were arranged in extensive piles within their several buildings, being very liable to catch and propagate the flames, increased by a violent wind blowing at the time, the power of man was unavailing to save them from destruction. In all twenty-seven apartments containing government records were consumed : but the fire did not extend to any of the dwellings of the people, nor were there any lives lost. I immediately gave orders to investigate what records had been burned, and to supply fresh copies from all the subordinate offices of their former reports. *Woo-show-ke*, the officer in charge of the records, and his assistants, being put on their trial made the following statement.

“ In the Record-Office there has hitherto been an apartment dedicated to the guardian deity of the records, wherein nobody slept. On that night, when all were asleep in their respective quarters, the porter, *Seu-ta*, was awakened from his sleep by a noise proceeding from the walls of the building, and on starting up to ascertain the cause, perceived the flames bursting out from the chamber appropriated to the deity. He immediately called up the people to endeavour to extinguish the fire : but as it had burned until midnight, its violence was such as to cause the destruction of the Record-Office. It had been customary, every morning and evening, to place lighted sticks of incense and candles before the shrine of the deity ; and on the first day of the new year the number of these had been greater than usual. They could not tell at what time the fire had communicated to the building, nor could they give any information as to the individual by whose carelessness it had happened. These were the whole of the circumstances with which they were acquainted.

“ On being repeatedly examined they steadily maintained the same evidence. As the officer, *Woo-show-ke*, had the especial charge of the records,

it is not expedient to let him escape punishment by pleading accident as the cause of the fire. He and his assistants will therefore be punished according to the law, which awards eighty blows of the bamboo,\* deprived of their offices, and dismissed altogether from public service.

“ Since I, the governor, did not, by previous care and foresight, prevent the calamity, it is difficult for me to extenuate my offence: I therefore request the Imperial will to give directions for my trial by the Criminal Board.

“ As official reports are every day accumulating in great numbers, and no steps have hitherto been taken to provide a place for them, it will be expedient to rebuild forthwith another record-office on the old foundations for their reception; with this view I humbly present a report.”

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XIV. *Petition from a sick and aged Minister to retire permanently from Office.*

3d moon, 1st day (30th March).

“ *She-che-kwang*, late one of the Presidents of the Board of Censors, kneeling presents this petition to His Majesty. He, an insignificant minister, being afflicted with incurable disease and infirmity, and having to intreat the favour of heaven (*i. e.* the Emperor) to permit him to retire to his native place, in order to nurse his complaints, with deep veneration he offers this up, and entreats the Imperial attention.

“ In the last year, between the seasons of summer and autumn, being suddenly affected by disorders peculiar to the time of year, I was prostrated by the violence of sickness, and on a representation of my case had to thank the vast Imperial compassion, which despatched physicians to examine my case, and at the same time permitted me to retire awhile from my office to seek a cure. For this I feel a degree of gratitude in my inmost soul, which it is impossible for words to express.

“ Reflecting within myself, that notwithstanding the decay of my strength it has still pleased the Imperial goodness to employ me in a high office instead of rejecting and discarding me at once, I have been most

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\* A smaller number is actually inflicted. See Penal Code of China, translated by Sir G. T. Staunton, Bart., Book I. § 1.

anxious to effect a cure, in order that, a weak old horse as I am, it might be still in my power, by the exertion of my whole strength, to recompense a ten-thousandth part of the benevolence which restored me to life.

“ But my external and internal complaints combining together have reduced me to the necessity of using powerful medicines, which have been in some degree efficacious in mitigating the violence of my complaints : yet the destructive effects of old age on the blood and spirits have been still greater, and the mind (affected by the state of the body) became exceedingly depressed. Both my legs were so tumid and painful that I could not walk ; but still I thought that the mildness of the spring, joined to careful treatment, might enable me, at the expiration of my leave, to make a violent effort towards the resumption of my office. When the spring came, however, both my legs became more swelled than ever, and the bones and sinews still more painful. The consulting physicians said it was the accumulated result of the action of noxious vapours during a number of years, and that old age being superadded it was not a thing for medicine to cure. More than seven months have now elapsed since I applied for my leave ; and though I have used a great variety of remedies, I cannot yet walk without support. Unable as I am to look forward to a cure, still, anxious as a dog or a horse to serve his lord, I should never have dared to entertain thoughts of retiring from service or indulging in ease, were it not that my powers are already destroyed, and I fear can never be restored. After turning it anxiously in my mind, I have no other choice than to entreat humbly that I may be permitted to retire to my native place, in order to obtain a little relief from medical treatment. Then, should the evening of my declining life be a little lengthened, I shall look upon it as proceeding entirely from the benevolent kindness of my sacred master (*Shing-choo*), who has given me a second life. And for this purpose I respectfully petition.”

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XV. *Petition for a new Trial in a case of Homicide.*

3d moon, 2d day (31st March).

“ The Imperial pleasure has been received.

“ *Fang-chin-she*, a woman of *Chung-tseang-Hëen*, in *Hoo-pih* province, has come to Peking, to present to us a petition, entreating that her nephew,

*Tang-heö-moo* (condemned to death) may be spared as her support.\* Now the criminal board has already reported that the above felon was condemned by the provincial jurisdiction to be decapitated, having been convicted of slaying a person maliciously; and that being clearly found guilty at the autumnal trial, he was not reprieved at the representation of the woman his relation. But in the petition of *Fang-chin-she* it is stated, in entire contradiction to the circumstances of the trial and conviction, that the labouring man *Tsā-lew* was killed by *Tang-heö-kaou* in conjunction with another person, both of whom died in prison. Now whether *Tang-heö-moo* has really been unjustly dealt with, or whether, at the instigation of some other person, he has been tempted by the death of those two criminals to endeavour to set aside the trial, it will be proper to sift to the bottom and ascertain clearly the truth or falsehood of the whole case, as well as the guilt or innocence of all parties concerned. It is hereby ordained, that at the autumnal trial of the present year the case of *Tang-heö-moo*, in all its bearings, be thoroughly investigated and tried before the governor, *Yang-moo-tëen*. Let him elicit the whole truth, and pronounce judgment accordingly, making a report to us of the same. The Criminal Board will, according to established rule, convey the woman back to her province, to be produced at the trial.

“ *Khin-tsze*.”

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XVI. *Loss of Lives from the Explosion of Gunpowder.—Imperial Decree.*

3d moon, 5th day (3d April).

“ *Sung-foo*, governor of *Hoo-nan* province, has presented a report concerning the death of several persons by the explosion of gunpowder, while manufacturing the same in camp.

“ While pounding gunpowder in a stone mortar in the camp of the left division of the governor's troops, a spark which was struck ignited the whole quantity of powder, and the explosion killed five soldiers, together with six other persons. As this must evidently have been caused by the carelessness of those who had the superintendence, it is hereby ordered

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\* When a condemned criminal happens to be the only son of a woman who is a widow, he is sometimes reprieved, when the case is not an aggravated one, on a representation being made. In this case the woman has no son, and therefore petitions for the next nearest relation.

that the officers, *Hae-füh*, *Wang-gän-pei*, and *Chow-kwang-heung*, be delivered to the Criminal Board for trial.

" Let the gunpowder which was exploded be made good, according to the quantity lost, by those whose business it was to watch it. In other respects, let the judgment of the said governor be followed.

" *Khin-tsze.*"

### XVII. *Suppression of incipient Rebellion in Shan-tung Province.*

On the 27th of the 3d moon the following imperial edict was respectfully received.

" *Ke-sheu* (acting governor of *Shan-tung* province) has presented to us a report of the trial and condemnation of the banditti who have been propagating lessons of rebellion, and has at the same time sent up lists of all those officers who exerted themselves in the apprehension of the rebels, together with other particulars. By these it appears that the traitor *Ma-tsin-chung*, a native of *Tsing-ho* district in *Chih-le* province, made himself the head of an unlawful association at *Lin-tsing-chow* \* in the province of *Shan-tung*, and that he, with his associates, organized themselves into self-constituted ranks and grades of authority, after the model of real officers of government. They circulated secret signals among themselves, and consulted together for the purposes of treason and rebellion. Their crime has been enormous, and their wickedness of the deepest dye!

" The said acting *Foo-yuen*, however, at the head of the civil and military officers, at once crushed the incipient evil, without giving the slightest previous intimation, and apprehended accomplices in the conspiracy to the number of above five hundred and seventy persons."

Then follows a very long list of civil and military officers who are to be promoted on the occasion, together with the acting Governor and the Judge of the province, who, in addition to their promotion, are rewarded each with a peacock's tail. Nothing is said in this paper regarding the punishment of the conspirators, most of whom will of course be put to death.

\* A place at the northern extremity, or commencement of the Grand Canal, where the British embassy stopped on the 22d September 1816.

XVIII. *A Case of Rape.*

3d moon, 27th day (25th April).

" The Censor, *Leang-chung-tsing*, presents this address, having inquired into the truth where a false report had been made in an atrocious case of rape, which led to the suicide of the person ravished. He looks up and intreats the Imperial attention.

" In the 9th moon of the last year, *Chaou-t'een-chung*, an inhabitant of *Shan-se* province, came to the capital (being deputed by his brother, the father of the female) and presented at the proper office a complaint, concerning which the Imperial pleasure was notified as follows :

" Let it be referred to *Kew-shoo-tang* (Governor of *Shan-se*) for examination. The complaint states, that the niece of the complainant, named *Urh-koo*, having been forcibly ravished by *Yen-sze-hoo*, put an end to herself in open court with a knife, being urged by the examining magistrate with threats to criminate herself, by acknowledging that she had given her consent to her own defloration,\* and that the officer who was despatched to hold an inquest on the case had tortured the father, *Chaou-t'een-ho*, and extorted an admission of consent on the part of his daughter. Should this be true, let those officers be deprived of their situations and severely punished, without admitting of any evasion or concealment. Let the complainant be conveyed back by the proper board, to be ready at the trial.

" *Khin-tsze.*"

" On the 1st day of the 2d moon of the present year, the said provincial governor reported that he had concluded the trial, and found it, as before proved, a case of defloration with the consent of the female. But I, the censor, hearing that the people of the district where it happened were very much incensed and troubled at the decision, gave my attention to the subject, and it was reported to me that the two officers who had been appointed by the governor to try the case were nominated at the particular intreaty of *Chin-tsung*, magistrate of *Tae-yuen-foo*, who begged it on his knees. From this it is plain that there was some improper influence in the case. There exist, also, great discrepancies between the report of the governor and the

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\* Rape, or forcible ravishment, is called *Keang-k'een*, and is punished capitally. If the female gives her consent to her dishonour, it is called *Ho-k'een*, or "Fornication by mutual consent," and is punishable merely with the bamboo, as a misdemeanor.



petition of the complainant. In the latter it is stated, that 'after his niece had killed herself, the above magistrate, *Chin-tsung*, made no inquiry as to the reasons of it; but turning to the mother of the deceased, charged *her* with having had intercourse with *Yen-sze-hoo*, the accused; though on her vehemently repelling this accusation, he atoned for it by an acknowledgment of his error.' There is no mention of this in the governor's report. In that report it is stated, that 'on the day when the business took place, *Yen-sze-hoo* went to the house to borrow a sack, and finding neither *Chaou-téen-ho* nor his wife at home, he prevailed on *Urh-koo* to commit the offence with him.' But this rests solely on the evidence of the prisoner himself: what reliance can be placed on it? The complainant asserts, that on the 14th of the 5th moon of last year, *Yen-sze-hoo* got in at the door of the house about day-break, and holding down *Urh-koo* with one hand while he prevented her cries with the other, succeeded in ravishing her, and then escaped out of doors. That when the father returned home from his work, *Urh-koo* met him weeping, and acquainted him with what had happened. The report says, that '*Yen-sze-hoo* stole out of the house before any one had returned to it, and on his way was met by *Chaou-téen-ho*.' These circumstances are very dissimilar. The report states, 'that *Chaou-téen-ho* bribed a person named *Hih-ting-chin* with six taels, as well as the two midwives or matrons (on the examination), to whom he gave twenty taels.' But the father is so poor that he can hardly maintain himself: where, then, could he procure money to bribe them?

"I hear, on the contrary, that *Yen-sze-hoo* having been the person who gave the bribes, had procured a relation of his to depose that they were given by *Chaou-téen-ho*. Again, the deceased, *Urh-koo*, was only twelve years of age; and in the copy of evidence she is called fourteen. Her person was moreover extremely small; while in the report it is stated that the body measured four *chě* five *tsun*.\* All these mis-statements must have been to support the allegation of a consent on her part. \* \* \* \* \* The report declares, that '*Urh-koo*, finding her shame discovered, killed herself in despair.' But why did she not kill herself when the prisoner was first seen by her father, instead of deferring it for twenty days, and then putting an end to herself *after* undergoing a long examination in public?

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\* 5 feet 2 inches.

Her death was surely the consequence of her despair and resentment, in being forced to acknowledge herself guilty. The circumstances of the report are evidently contradictory, and invented for the support of the particular allegation, as well as to protect the officers therein concerned: for if it be examined into, how should a female only twelve years of age be persuaded to give her consent on such an occasion; and if she had suffered no wrong at all, what should make her put an end to herself? I have heard that, though the weather was uncommonly hot at the time, and notwithstanding that the body remained several days uninterred, it suffered no change whatever: a circumstance which removes all doubt of her having suffered grievous wrong. It is consistent with established practice to petition that some distinction be conferred on the memory of this chaste virgin, whose name has been stained with dishonour. It is a question in which good reputation is deeply interested; and should her wrong be allowed to pass unredressed, what security will remain for the public morals or for the observance of the laws? *Shan-se* is not far distant from the capital: your Majesty's consent is therefore petitioned for bringing the case before the criminal board, in order that it may be proved beyond a doubt. The circumstances that have come to my knowledge, contrary to the Governor's report, I dare not but present to the Imperial attention."

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XIX. *Grain Junks on the Canal.—Imperial Edict.*

4th moon, 10th day (8th May).

" *Wei-yuen-heö* and others have applied for our instructions respecting the formation of certain restrictive regulations, calculated to keep in check the unruly crews of the grain junks.\*

" The late outrageous and violent conduct of the people in the grain junks, towards private merchants and individuals has rendered it necessary to enact certain regulations for their future government and control. The said superintendent has reported, that it has hitherto been the custom for every division of grain junks to employ the people of the province

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\* These junks were seen by Lord Amherst's embassy extending for several miles along the side of the *Pei-ho*. Were this annual supply cut off by blockading the southern extremity of the grand canal, the capital and its neighbourhood must necessarily be starved.

and district whence it came, as being the best skilled in the management of the vessels. This has given occasion to great numbers of homeless vagabonds from distant places to conduct themselves in a disorderly and unlawful manner, relying upon their great numbers for impunity. Let the head man in each vessel be made responsible, and let him be compelled to return lists of his crew as a check upon their conduct, and in order to prevent the escape of the guilty. With respect to those rogues and vagabonds who accompany the grain junks from a distance, and combine with the sailors in unlawful acts, let the officers of government that are attached to each vessel present regular returns of those on board, containing a description of the age, appearance, and other particulars of each person, and let every man have a badge or mark round his middle, in order that when the vessel comes to an anchor he may be duly registered. Should the officers on duty be guilty of remissness they will be dismissed and punished.

“ When the vessels reach the narrow and crowded parts of the canal, at *Soo-chow, Chang-chow, Chin-chow, and Yang-chow,\** let the military officers station themselves by rotation on the banks of the river, in order to restrain the disorderly conduct of the crews, and to prevent their ill-using and oppressing private merchants and individuals. When the grain junks enter any particular district, let the civil and military authorities of that district, attended by their soldiers and followers, resort to the spot, and exert themselves in quickening the progress of the vessels, as well as in the preservation of order.† Let the chief superintendent, assisted by the *Leang-kaou‡* and the military under him, exercise a rigid control, in order that the violent may be kept in awe, the progress of the vessels be attended with order, and commercial intercourse remain unmolested.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

\* The three first of these cities are to the *south* of the *Yang-tsze-keang*, and the last to the *north* of it: their wealth and population are the causes of the canal being greatly crowded in their neighbourhood. There is every reason to suppose that the *Keang* is navigable by the largest ships as far as *Kwa-chow*, where it is crossed by the canal.

† It is a rule on the canal that all private vessels should make way for the grain junks, and the people in the grain junks frequently abuse the privilege.

‡ Officer who has charge of the government stores.

XX. *Seizure of a Convict who had escaped from his place of Banishment.—  
Imperial Decree.*

5th moon, 4th day (31st May).

“ *Lüh-ching* and his colleagues have made application for some rewards to be conferred, as an encouragement to others, on those soldiers who apprehended the convict that lately escaped from banishment on the frontier. *Saou-tan-paou*, who was convicted of an unsuccessful attempt to ravish his niece, and condemned to distant banishment on the frontier, made his escape on the road while being conveyed to the tribunal to receive sentence, but was apprehended one year after his flight. Let *Saou-tan-paou*, according to law, be condemned to a higher grade of punishment, and banished to serve with the troops in an unhealthy station, after having first worn the wooden collar for one month. Let those soldiers by whom he was apprehended be promoted when an opportunity occurs, in preference to all others. The proper board will take cognizance of it.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

XXI. *Forging the current Coin.*

5th moon, 8th day (4th June).

An address is respectfully presented from the office of the general of infantry for the Imperial consideration.

“ *Heang-yung*, *Chaou-tseuen*, and others, officers and soldiers attached to the police of the city, discovered and seized two offenders, since convicted of secretly coining (or casting) the current *tchen*. The two criminals, together with the counterfeit coin, the moulds, and other instruments, being brought before us (the general and his colleagues), we instituted a strict examination. *Chow-urh*, one of the criminals, deposed as follows: ‘I am a native of *Füh-san-hëen*, in *Shan-tung* province, aged forty-four. I came to *Peking* and lived in ‘Handkerchief Lane,’ beyond *Tsung-wän* gate. I get my living by making ornaments for women’s hair. About the beginning of the 4th moon, being in great want, I, in concert with a former acquaintance, *Tang-shih*, contrived a plan for counterfeiting old worn-out *tchen* by casting lead: we were to put them in circulation and share the profits. Being both agreed upon it, I procured a piece of stone, and made a mould for the coin; at the same time providing other instruments for the

purpose. We borrowed an empty chamber in the *San-shing-meaou* \* (Temple of the Three Holy Ones), in the immediate neighbourhood of where we lived, and coined upwards of seven thousand *tchen*. Having begun to put them in circulation, we were seized, together with all our instruments.' *Tang-shih*, the other criminal, deposed: 'that he was a native of *Ta-hing-hëen*, in *Shun-tëen-foo*, aged thirty-eight years, and that he came to live in the same lane with the first prisoner.' The rest of his confession agreed with the preceding.

" We have found that counterfeiting the current coin is an offence of high degree. *Chow-urh* and *Tang-shih* having, on account of their poverty, combined for the purpose of casting this counterfeit coin with lead, are serious offenders, and we apprehend that they have coined a greater quantity than has been admitted in their confession. We humbly present this address, and request your Majesty's pleasure as to sending the two criminals, together with the different articles found in their possession, before the criminal board for trial."

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## XXII. *Distress at Peking.*

*Introduction.* There is every reason to be certain that *Peking* has suffered severely from an epidemic during the latter part of the late summer and the commencement of the autumn, though the circumstance is, of course, not directly mentioned in the Gazette. The private letters of Père L'Amiot, at *Macao*, from his friends at the capital, state the fact unequivocally; and the acknowledged severity of the famine during the summer occasioning a vast resort of the starving population to *Peking* (to procure food gratuitously, or at least at a very low price), affords a sufficient explanation of the causes of the pestilence. The following extracts from the Gazettes will prove the pressure of the distress.

### *Imperial Edict.*

" On account of the drought† in the neighbourhood of the capital, and

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\* For the Chinese characters see Plate xiii. No. 2.

† In the preceding year (1823) there were inundations not less severe than the present drought.

the poverty of the husbandmen's fields looking in vain for enriching showers, we sent down our will, that altars for sacrifice should be erected at *Hih-lung-tan* and *Keö-säng-sze*. During the last ten days, although there has been a very slight appearance of rain, it was quite inadequate to moisten the earth. Let our eldest son, *Yih-heng*, on the seventh day of the present moon, proceed reverentially to the temple of the Spirit of Heaven to worship; let the Imperial relative, *Mëen-kae*, proceed with reverence to the temple of the Spirit of Earth to sacrifice; let *Mëen-hin*, the Imperial relative, proceed with reverence to offer sacrifice in the temple of the Spirit of the Year; let our son, *Yih-chaou*, sacrifice also at the temple of the Spirit of the Winds. On the 6th day let them all lodge together in the palace at *Peking*, and on the 7th of the moon repair separately to those different spots, to supplicate for speedy and plentiful supplies of fructifying rain.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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*Another Edict.*

“ Having sent down our will regarding the sacrifices to be performed by the princes and great ministers on the 7th of the moon, we now intimate that on the same day ourself shall burn incense at *Hih-lung-tan*.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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The crowded state of the capital is proved by the following extracts :

“ The numerous resort of an hungry populace from the surrounding country has led to the occasional plundering of articles of food, and we have already issued our commands for restraining and controlling them. The censor, *Lang-paou-shin*, has reported that sundry vagrants, under the plea of want and starvation, have been committing depredations in the markets and other places of public resort, in direct contravention of the laws. The proper authorities are hereby commanded to issue proclamations on the subject, and exercise a rigid control, that the neighbourhood of the Imperial residence may be well governed and orderly. The erection of additional playhouses, as has been reported, being highly prejudicial to the morals of the people, the police of the city must also restrain and keep them within bounds. Let not this be regarded as a mere form.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

“ The different stations at *Peking* have distributed grain during a long continued period ; but, on the 20th day of the 5th moon let them all be shut and the distribution cease, as the stores will not admit of further donations. The harvest is now approaching, and the people may return to their several districts to seek a livelihood by their own labour. Let the magistrate of *Shun-tëen-foo*, previously to the close of the distribution, make known to the people daily, when they receive their grain, that they must no longer tarry at the capital in a wandering and idle manner. Let *Tseang-yew-tëen*, governor of the province, enjoin the district officers to exercise a strict vigilance, at the same time soothing the distressed populace, and preventing their wandering about in a dispersed and vagabond way ; thus seconding our paternal solicitude to cherish them in our bosom.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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XXIII. *Pecuniary Aid to those whose Dwellings were swept down by the Inundations of 1823.—Imperial Decree.*

5th moon, 19th day (15th June).

“ *Yang-mow-tëen*, governor of *Hoo-pih* province, has presented an address, stating that he has surveyed the districts in which the dwellings of the people suffered from inundations, and petitioning for a pecuniary grant towards their repair. Four Hëen districts in the province of *Hoo-pih*, viz. *Hwang-mei*, *Kwang-tse*, *Keang-ling*, and *Hëen-le*, as well as *Ke-chow-wei*, all of which suffered from the inundations of the last year, have been surveyed by the said governor ; and he has found that the owners of both the tiled and thatched huts which were destroyed really do not possess the means of repairing them, and that they have stated nothing but the truth. On these grounds he considers they are, according to custom, entitled to assistance in rebuilding their dwellings. According to the tenor of his petition, let  $5.0.0^*$  be given on account of every tiled hut, and  $3.0.0^\dagger$  on account of every thatched one ; the sum total required being 13,061 taels.‡ Let this sum be defrayed from the treasury as an extraordinary charge. The local magistrates of the districts must forthwith proceed in person and distribute the money, in order that the distressed people may

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\* About 3s. 4d. sterling.

† About 2s. sterling.

‡ This gives above 30,000 houses or huts as the number destroyed.

really experience our Imperial benevolence. Let them not permit inferior agents to embezzle the least portion of the grant ; and when the business is concluded let a report be made.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

#### XXIV. *Erection of additional Prisons at Canton—Imperial Decree.*

6th moon, 2d day (28th June).

“ *Yuen* and his colleagues have presented an address concerning the expediency of erecting additional prisons at Canton. The convicted prisoners in Canton province are very numerous, and it has always been the custom for the several *Foo-chow* and *Hëen* districts to send their prisoners for trial, as well as all such robbers and associated banditti as have been apprehended in them, to the prisons of *Nan-hae* and *Pwan-yu-hëen*.\* The said viceroy and his colleagues have ascertained that the existing establishment of prisons is so confined as to cause pestilential disorders and death among the prisoners from over-crowding ; it is, therefore, right that for the future the number of persons confined therein be considerably lessened. In *Pwan-yu-hëen* there is, it appears, a spot on which the new prison may be conveniently built. According to the tenour of the address, let capital offenders from the several *Foo-chow* and *Hëen* districts of the province be confined in the old prisons of *Nan-hae* and *Pwan-yu-hëen* ; but let those prisoners whose crimes do not subject them to a higher punishment than distant banishment be sent to the new prison. As the spot on which the new prison is to stand is close to the office of the *Ho-pih-so* (who has the control of all persons living on the river), let the said officer be the keeper of the prison ; but no addition need be made on this account to his pay and allowances. The necessary expense of building, which has been calculated at 3,500 taels and upwards, may be disbursed by the viceroy, without sending in a particular detail. Let their resolutions be adopted in all other respects : the proper board will take cognizance of it.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

#### XXV. *Presentation of Military Officers at Court.*

6th moon, 5th day (9th July).

“ *Na-yen-ching*, viceroy of *Shen-se* and *Kan-suh*, respectfully presents

\* Districts of *Kwang-chow-foo*.



this address to his Majesty, concerning the expediency of extending the limits of the period at the conclusion of which military officers are required to present themselves at court. He looks up and intreats the Imperial attention.

“ The fixed regulations require that general officers of the first and second degrees of rank should apply for permission to present themselves at court once in every three years. The object of this was to enable the servant to fix his thoughts on his sovereign, and to afford to the sovereign an occasion of bestowing his regards on his servant, In the case of those provinces which are near to *Peking*, the time consumed in the journey to court and back again is inconsiderable, and the expenses of the passage are therefore moderate; but in the frontier provinces, as *Yun-nan*, *Kwei-chow*, the two *Kwangs*, *Füh-këen*, *Sze-chuen*, *Kan-sùh*, &c., which are several thousand *lee* distant from the capital, the officers proceeding to court are harassed by a long and difficult journey; besides which, their duties remain at a stand-still for a great length of time. The uncorrupt pay of military officers is not large, and quite inadequate to the charges of their return; it is, therefore, likely that improper and corrupt practices may be yielded to, in order to supply their necessary expenses. Since, therefore, it appears inexpedient to adhere strictly to the prescribed period of three years, I, your slave, foolishly conceive that, in the case of the provinces which are near to the capital, the old rule should be observed; but as far as regards the distant and frontier provinces, I have humbly to request that the Imperial indulgence may be manifested, and that the prescribed period be extended one or two years, as a mark of the favour and compassion of your Majesty. I, prostrate, entreat to be informed of your Majesty's pleasure with regard to this proposition.”

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XXVI. *Locusts in the Province of Peking.—Imperial Decree.*

6th moon, 24th day (20th July).

“ The Governor of *Chih-le* province has presented an address, recommending the dismissal of a district officer who neglected to present a timely report of a flight of locusts. In the several subordinate districts of *Gan-chow* a numerous swarm of locusts has lately appeared. The said governor explains the circumstance of his not having already reported concerning their extermination, and states that he has despatched proper persons to use all

diligence in destroying the insects throughout those districts where they exist, in order that the grain may not be injured by them. The *Hëen* of *Yung-ching* district, *Ho-che-tsing*, who presented a confused report several months after the locusts had already appeared, and who failed to erect, according to established rule, stations for buying (or giving a reward for) all the insects destroyed, has been guilty of culpable remissness. Let him first be deprived of the ball on his cap, and let a limited time be fixed within which he must exterminate the insects. Should he again be guilty of remissness he will be further punished.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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XXVII. *A grain Junk burnt by Lightning.*

7th moon, 5th day (30th July).

“ The Comptroller-general of the grain junks, *Wei-yuen-heu*, respectfully presents this address to His Imperial Majesty.

“ The Commissioner of grain in *Hoo-pih* province has reported to me, that the second fleet of grain junks from thence arrived on the 18th of the 5th moon at *Yih-hëen* in *Shan-tung*, and stopped at the lock or flood-gate called *Tun-chwan-chă* until it should be opened. On the 19th, between \* seven and nine o'clock in the morning, a hurricane arose, accompanied by thunder and lightning, when the vessel under the charge of *Hwang-chung-tă* was struck by lightning on one of the masts, which ignited, and communicated the fire quickly to the whole vessel. The grain junks ahead and astern of the one on fire were immediately hauled off, and saved by the exertions of all those engaged; but the violence of the wind and of the flames baffled the attempts of those on board the burning junk, though happily they all escaped without injury. The cargo of grain, amounting to six hundred and twenty-one peculs (about forty tons), besides reeds, mats, fir planks, and large bamboos, together with other goods, were all consumed, nothing but the junk's bottom remaining. It was a distressing object for the eyes! Now it is proposed that the cargo of grain destroyed be made good by the owner in successive annual instalments, and that the other articles be brought again in the ensuing year.

“ In addition to the above report, it appears from the statement of the

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\* See Plate XIII, No. 3.

district officers, that the master of the vessel had all his family and his property embarked in her; and the vessel and cargo being now burnt, his situation is distressful and embarrassed. As the event proceeded from causes which no care or foresight could prevent, and as the means of the master are not equal to making good the vessel and cargo at once, the Imperial goodness is petitioned, as a mark of tender compassion, to allow him to commence from the winter of the present year, and in the course of three years make good the grain destroyed. Besides addressing the Revenue Board on the subject, I most respectfully present this address."

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XXVIII. *Plundering inroads of Hassacks, or Cossacks, on the Russian Frontier.—Imperial edict.*

7th moon, 11th day (5th August).

"An address has been received from *Ah-tse-heang-ah*, stating that some (*Ha-să-kih*) Hassacks, headed by *Chen-tae-le*, had made an inroad through one of the passes on the frontier of *Ko-poo-to\**, and carried off a number of cattle, having attacked and wounded the herdsman. The officer, *Chă-kih-sang-ah*, being despatched after the plunderers, had returned from the pass of *Hwuy-ma-e-la-hoo* without any of them being seized, &c. &c.

"The Hassacks being near the pass of *Tă-urh-pa-ha-tae*, which adjoins the Russian boundaries, the seizure of these robbers is of the utmost importance. Of late the Hassacks have every year made plundering inroads. It is necessary that they be seized and rigidly dealt with, in order to strike awe into foreigners and make manifest the nation's laws †. How happened it that the officer who was sent to seize the plunderers allowed such a length of time to elapse without apprehending even one of them? His remissness has been excessive. The commandant states that another officer, *Tă-lang-ah*, has since been despatched to exert himself in apprehending the offenders. Let *Chă-kih-sang-ah* be still kept at *Hwuy-ma-e-la-hoo*, to exert himself with the utmost diligence in seeking for the plunderers. Should he again make evasive excuses he will be severely punished. When it is discovered through

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\* Chinese territory on the Russian frontier, between 85° and 95° long.

† For the Chinese characters, See Plate XIII. No. 4.

what pass *Chen-tae-le* entered, let the officer who so negligently guarded it be cashiered and reported.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

XXIX. *Forbidding the practice of Witchcraft and unlawful Rites.—Imperial decree.*

7th moon, 13th day (19 August).

“ The censor, *Le-fung-chin*, has presented an address, praying for the suppression of false doctrines and opinions.

“ The religious ritual of the empire is founded on the sacred books.\* To delude the people with unorthodox opinions is a great contravention of the laws. According to the report of the censor, a fane has again been erected to the superstition of *Woo-tung* at *Lun-kea-shan*, ten *le* (three miles) to the west of *Soo-chow-foo*. In the reign of KANG-HE the fane was destroyed and the idols burnt, and for a long series of years the superstition has been suppressed; but the sacrifices are now offered as before. The witches place a pretended confidence in the predictions of the spirits, and promise a fulfilment of hopes and desires; and the extension of their baneful practice is not confined to the jurisdiction of *Soo-chow-foo* alone: it is, therefore, highly requisite to adopt rigorous measures for their restraint and suppression. *Sun-yu-ting* and *Han-wän-ke* (the governor and deputy) are directed to enjoin all the officers of the subordinate districts to destroy every trace of the superstition of *Woo-tung*. Let not the simple people be permitted to offer sacrifices or to associate with the votaries of the superstition. Let the magistrates issue instructions to all the heads of families to exercise a rigid control over their dependants. Let the whole system of false worship, calculated only to delude the uninstructed populace, with its burning of incense, collection of subscriptions, &c. whenever it is discovered, be immediately followed up by severe punishment, in order that the public morals may be improved and the hearts of men set right.

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

\* Those of Confucius and his school. The established faith of China is a Rosicrucian system of presiding spirits or genii, both good and bad, both sylphs and gnomes: the former called *Shin*, and the latter *Kwei*. The government religion pays adoration to no “Great First Cause,” and in fact differs but little from atheism. (See No. XXIII, No. XIII, et passim.)

XXX. *Wreck of two Vessels from Loo-choo, or Lew-kew, near the Coast of Che-keang.*

8th moon, 28th day (20th October).

“ *Shwae-ching-ying*, deputy viceroy of *Chě-keang* province, kneeling presents to his Majesty this address concerning the compassionate treatment of some unfortunate foreigners, natives of *Lew-kew*, who have been wrecked. As by law directed, he respectfully submits all the circumstances of the case, and humbly entreats the Imperial attention.

“ On the coast of this province foreigners in their vessels are occasionally driven by the winds; and in the event of their being foreigners of *Lew-kew*, it is by law and custom provided that they be sent to *Füh-kéen* province, and when a convenient opportunity occurs transported back to their own country. *Lüh-yu*, the acting magistrate of *Yu-hwan*\* district, has reported that on the 11th of the seventh moon the military commandant of *Yu-hwan* had sent to him six unfortunate natives of *Lew-kew*. The said magistrate inspected them, and found that they had long hair, tied in a knot on the top of the head,† and that they wore long flowing garments: their speech was unintelligible. Among them was an individual who understood the Chinese character, and he being furnished with paper and a pencil was desired to write. He then wrote ‘ that they were people from *Na-pa-foo*‡ in *Lew-kew*; that the number of persons in the vessel was six; that on the 28th of the sixth moon they sailed from *Pă-chung-shan*, an island belonging to their country, with a cargo of four hundred bags of grain, and meeting immediately with a hurricane which carried away their masts, their vessel became water-logged, and they were compelled to throw overboard the larger half of their cargo. Being tossed about at sea, they were at length, on the 8th of the seventh moon, taken on board by a cruising vessel of war, &c. It was farther ascertained by the magistrate, that the quantity of grain remaining in the vessel amounted to one hundred and seventy-seven bags, of which sixty-one bags were damaged by wet. There were, besides, four small bamboo boxes, containing various articles of food and of domestic use: no prohibited goods were discovered. The six distressed foreigners

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\* An island close to the coast of *Chě-keang*.

† See Plate XIII, No. 5.

‡ The capital, called nearly by the same name in Captain Hall's Voyage to Loo Choo.

were then lodged in a temporary dwelling, and according to custom food and clothing were distributed to them. One among them, who was an invalid, was attended by a doctor. The damaged grain was spread forth to dry; and the hull of the vessel, as well as the masts and sails which had suffered, were repaired with all speed.

“ Again: *Chin-tsung-kea*, magistrate of *Ting-hae-hëen*,\* has reported, that on the 11th of the seventh moon the military commandant forwarded ten distressed foreigners of *Lew-kew* to his office. The magistrate examined them, and inspected their vessel. As some of them were rudely acquainted with the Chinese character, they were desired to write, and stated nearly the same as the other people. On board this last vessel, which was very much injured, there proved to be one small horse, together with some grain and implements for smoking, as well as the clothes and baggage of the crew. There was, besides, a small boat on board, but no prohibited articles. The horse and the other property were delivered to the said foreigners, that they might take care of them within their own quarters, and clothes and food were distributed to each. Materials were at the same time provided, and workmen engaged for the repair of the vessel. I, the deputy viceroy, have received a report from the treasurer on the subject. The above-mentioned distressed foreigners having been driven by a tempest, and forced upon our shores, are greatly deserving of compassion. Every care being taken for their accommodation, and for the repair of their vessel, they will, as soon as the latter is completed, be conveyed to the capital of *Füh-këen* province, and detained there until a convenient opportunity occurs for their return to their nation; thus manifesting the compassion which *His Sacred Majesty*† entertains towards distant nations and people. Besides making the necessary communications to the proper Board, as well as to the Viceroy and Deputy Viceroy of *Füh-këen*, it is right that I present this statement of circumstances to the Imperial attention.”

A reply in the vermillion character has been received.

“ Let it be done according to the tenor of the address.”

“ *Khin-tsze.*”

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\* Another insulated district on the coast of *Chë-keang*, close to the port of *Ning-po*.

† More literally, “our Sacred Lord, or Master.”—See Plate XIII. No. 6.

*Note.* The summer and autumn of 1824 have been remarkable for the number of violent north-westerly gales, or typhoons, in the seas adjacent to China. No less than two European ships were wrecked on the coast of *Hae-nan* alone, and numbers suffered the loss of their masts, &c.

I 仁宗睿皇帝 II 三聖

廟 III 辰時 IV 以儆外夷

而彰國法 V 蓄髮挽髻

VI 聖主 VII 水漏 VIII 沙漏

IX 大義 X 虎 XI 松大人

XII 莊敬日強